The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1084. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 1932 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 21, NO. 45.

Cowards have no luck.—Elizabeth Kulman.

Mr. Justice Holmes

By WILLIAM GREEN,
President, American Federation of Labor

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, issued the following statement on learning of the resignation of Mr. Justice Holmes as a member of the Supreme Court of the United States:

"The great masses of the people composed of working men and women are filled with a deep sense of loss over the resignation of Mr. Justice Holmes as a member of the Supreme Court of the United States.

"He is greatly beloved by these groups.

"He occupies a very large place in their hearts and affections.

"During all his years of service to the Country as a member of the Supreme Court he never wavered in his devotion to those humane principles which he espoused as a young lawyer and later as a great Judge.

"He made the Constitution of the United States an actual force for good and a safeguard of the rights and liberties of the citizens of the United States.

"He refused to accept the doctrine that the Constitution was inflexible and impossible of application to the modern industrial and social life.

"He saw in the Constitution an instrumentality thoroughly adapted to human needs and changing conditions of life.

"The men and women of Labor will always hold him in high esteem and with reverential regard.

"We wish for him many years of enjoyment of the rest which he has so valiantly earned.

"We hope that Divine Providence will be kind and that his life will be spared for many years to come.

"In bidding farewell to this great public servant, this great jurist, this noble humanitarian, we express the earnest hope that a man of his type, character and vision will be selected to serve as his successor."

Unemployment Is Not Inevitable

Certain static and inefficient owners and managers of our industrial establishments draw smug comfort from their contention that unemployment is an incurable disease unreservedly associated with the production and distribution of wealth.

These industrial bourbons and their legislative and judicial satellites maintain that the "natural order" and "economic laws" govern economic affairs much the same as forces like gravitation operate in the physical world.

Mr. Albert Thomas, secretary-general of the International Labor Office, discarces with this reactionary view. In a recent discussion of the slow progress made throughout the world in applying positive cures for unemployment, Mr. Thomas reiterated his conviction that the world army of nearly 25,000,000 jobless is caused by policies originated and controlled by human beings, and that human beings have the power to change those policies so as to provide work and good wages for every employable person.

"My enthusiasm has not waned," Mr. Thomas said, "even when, not so long ago, partisans of the liberal economic school endeavored to demonstrate that economic crises arise just as do temporary springs, and that the periodical revival of unemployment is something naturally and inseparably linked up with economic development.

"Many people believe in this wise inevitability, since it is impossible to war against the natural order of the world. But this policy would be just as inadvisable as to lie in bed and suffer passively.

"Fortunately we have already gone beyond these theories. The increase of unemployment on a large scale has stirred everybody from his inactivity. Economists who have for so long been content to lie there drunkenly in their beds have at last been aroused out of their theory of fatalism.

"Certainly we believe that we can change the natural order of things. Nature cannot expect the majority of people to remain in misery.

"Even religious organizations are favoring the view that human intelligence is capable of directing social and economic progress. The 1925 Stockholm Conference of the English, Orthodox and Protestant Churches unanimously declared that the suffering on account of unemployment are 'intolerable for the moral sense,' and that the causes of the disease must be found and exterminated."

In his view that social and econbmic conditions are created by society rather than by the "natural order" or "economic laws," Mr. Thomas reflects the position of Organized Labor and rational people generally.

The length of the work day and work week, for instance, is not determined by the "natural order" or "economic laws," but by the will and decree of the autocrats who own and control the establishments in which the workers are employed.

There are over 8,000,000 unemployed today because these industrials, having the power to do so, compel their workers, by threat of dismissal, to work in many instances six days a week.

Organized Labor demands that the hours of labor shall be reduced to the seven-hour day and the five-day week at once in order to put the present 8,000,000 jobless to work.

Organized Labor insists that hereafter the hours of labor shall be reduced at stated intervals to whatever extent may be necessary to provide jobs for workers displaced by labor-saving machinery and technological gains.

As a national policy, applied to all departments of our industrial life, this would abolish unemployment and prevent its recurrence.

The employers have the power to establish the shorter work day and the five-day week. They know they have it. Labor knows they have it. The 8,000,000 unemployed know they have it. The people know they have it. It is high for them and their apologists to attempt to pass the buck either to the "natural order" or to "economic laws."

Labor's Place in Industry

The January issues of the trade journals are largely devoted to reviewing conditions in the various industries during 1931.

It is an axiom that the millions of employees do most of the functionally useful work in the production and distribution of wealth. It would be reasonable to assume, therefore, that Labor would at least be referred to in these annual reviews. Most of them, however, absolutely ignore the existence of Labor.

They devote page after page to the number of shareholders, dividends earnings, commodity profits, losses, and the value of shares of stock, which are the owners' titles to the plants in which Labor produces the commodities. But rarely does one find a reference about wages, hours or working conditions of the employes.

In the Iron Age, a trade publication devoted to the iron and steel industry, Mr. C. E. Wright has an article of this type entitled "Industry Experiences a Calamitous Year." It is a fair sample of the way in which those who own and control industry and industrial publications both regard and treat the human interests of the workers as an essential element to be considered in the industries of the Nation.

There are hundreds of thousands of workers who perform the labor in the iron and steel industry. Their interests are largely bound up in wages, hours, stability of employment, and similar working conditions. One would think that Mr. Wright would at least mention the various labor deflations that have taken place during the year—deflations in both wages and hours. But in his paper article carries nothing on this subject.

He tells how many millions of tons the output of steel ingots, for iron and furnished steel dropped in 1931, and analyzes the price decreases for steel products of all sorts. He discourses on the falling off in exports of iron and steel products, and jumps over into the automotive industry long enough to use it merely to describe their importance as buyers of iron and steel products.

He tabulates the reduced earnings of the big iron and steel companies and recounts regretfully the reduction in dividend rates and total dividends.

But the thousands of workers in the industry who metamorphose raw iron into finished commodities are not mentioned. These employes were handed a 10 per cent wage cut last year and in addition were placed on part time work so that, according to the National Industrial Conference Board, they are now earning on an average slightly over $26 a week. But even this drastic deflation in living standards for the employes does not draw a syllable from Mr. Wright.

This deliberate omission of the workers from reviews of our industries does not come about by mere chance. It is perfectly in line with the prevailing conception of our industrial autocrats and their apologists in Wallstreet and economics.

They hold that our industries are organized and operated by the owners or their representatives for the exclusive benefit of the owners. The workers who transform raw material into commodity wealth, and thence into earnings and profits, are not considered a functionally important factor in every merit ascribed in articles describing industry. They are just things which are used as long as their use can be turned into profits and discarded to the unemployed army and charity organizations when machinery is found which will do their work.

Labor insists that this policy shall be changed.

Voteless Stockholders

The determination of those who own and control the electric light and power industrys to establish and maintain a close industrial dictatorship is well illustrated by their manipulation of customer-ownership of stock so as to get the use of the customers' money without granting even a semblance of company control.

The general set up of this scheme is to sell customers stock without voting power. According to the World Almanac, the electric light and power companies have sold over 25,000,000 shares of this voteless stock to customers of electric light and power since 1926. The consumers hold over two billion dollars for the stock, which is approximately 20 per cent of the total value of the industry's plant and equipment.

The groups of stockholders who control corporations determine policies. Control is vested in those who own the stock carrying the right to vote.

Owners of electric light and power have a vital interest in company policies. They are interested in fair price and service policies for the public. They are interested in fair wage and hours policies for the employes. They are interested in fair returns on their investment.

But the industrial overlords who control the industry do not want their plans disturbed. So they issue and sell two kinds of stock. One kind carries the right to vote at stockholders' meetings. The overlords gobble up this. The other kind is voteless stock. The overlords sell this stuff to consumers.

The Electrical World declares that despite the very important proprietorship interest in the industry represented by the 25,000,000 shares of customer-owned stock, **"in most cases it is not voting stock."**

Voteless stock in our corporations is in exactly the same class as votelens citizens would be in our scheme of Government.

We long since endowed every citizen of our Republic with the right to vote in the affairs of Government.

We should extend the principle to the increasing number of persons who are stockholders in our corporations.

Voteless stock should be abolished.

MOONEY CONVICTION DECLARED ILLEGAL

Senate Gets Suppressed Report to Wickersham Board That the Prosecution and Police Broke the Law.

Washington, Jan. 16.—Charges by a subcommittee of the Wickersham Committee on Law Observance that the prosecution and the police violated the law in the trial of Thomas J. Mooney and Warren K. Billings in San Francisco in 1917 were revealed when the report, previously withheld by the commission, was submitted to the Senate by Attorney General Mitchell.

The report declared the conviction as a process of perjury, concealed evidence, and a flagrant violation of California law.

The report included a letter from Judge Franklin A. Griffin, who presided at the trial of Mooney, in which he said he had "become convinced that the conviction of Mooney was a gross miscarriage of justice."

The conclusion reads in part:

"There never was any scientific attempt made, by either the police or prosecution to discover the perpetrators of the crime. The investigation was in reality turned over to a private detective, who used his attention to secure the arrest of the defendants. The police investigation was reduced to a hunt for evidence to convict the arrested defendants.

"There were flagrant violations of the statutory law of California by both police and the prosecution in the manner in which the defendants were arrested and held incommunicado and in the subsequent examination before the grand jury to procure evidence against them."

The report further declares that the identification methods used by the prosecution were questionable, that the prosecution, by its conduct, attempted to arouse public prejudice against the defendants, that information challenging the credibility of the prosecution's witnesses was concealed, that witnesses were permitted to testify despite the prosecution's knowledge of previous contradictory statements important enough to perjure their testimony, that witnesses were coached to a degree that approached subornation of perjury, that unfair and intemperate statements were made by the prosecution before the jury, and that after the conviction the prosecution misled disclosures creating doubt on the justice of the conviction.

The report was submitted to the Wickersham Commission by the subcommittee on Lawless Enforcement of Law, headed by Federal Judge Paul McCormick, Kenyon of Fort Dodge, Iowa. It was prepared by Zechariah Chafee, Jr., professor of law at Harvard University; Carl S. Stern, and Walter H. Pollack. Mr. Wickersham said the report was not published because he determined it was beyond the province of the commission and, furthermore, because he did not believe its publication would be in the public interest.

The suppressed report was resurrected by a resolution sponsored by Senators Cutting of New Mexico, Walsh of Montana, and Costigan of Colorado, requesting President Hoover to transmit it to the Senate.

DES MOINES LABOR HITS GROCERY WAGE FOR IDLE

Des Moines, Iowa, Jan. 16.—A mass meeting held under the auspices of the Des Moines Trades and Labor Assembly made an emphatic protest against the manner in which needy persons are paid for work done in city parks.

President Lewis Stoffle stated that by an understanding between the Welfare Bureau and the City Council on Parks Commission unemployed persons were given two days' work in the parks and paid principally in groceries.

The Welfare Bureau, he stated, pays the men with orders for groceries and other necessities up to 50 cents an hour and the City Parks Department pays an additional 17½ cents per hour in cash. The net result is, he said, that those who are given work by the City Welfare Bureau are paid $8 in trade, restricted to certain articles, and $2.40 in cash.

J. C. Lewis, president of the Iowa State Federation of Labor, was the main speaker.

"Our position in this matter," Lewis said, "is for full payment in cash, to spend as we see fit. I see in this move an attempt to force the wage scale down in Des Moines."

ANTI-INJUNCTION BILL IN SENATE COMMITTEE

Washington, Jan. 16.—Chairman Norris of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary announced that the Committee would receive briefs up to January 25 from proponents of anti-labor injunction restricting the power of Federal judges to issue injunctions in labor disputes.

Exhaustive hearings on the subject were held during the last session. The Committee does not think it is necessary to repeat them at this session.

California Wage Rate Law in Court

Last year the Congress of the United States and a number of State Legislatures enacted laws providing that the prevailing rate of wages be paid persons employed on the construction of public works.

It is reported that the Associated Industries of California, designed to protect American living standards, should be questioned by any employer. Nevertheless, certain low-wage employers have been antisocial enough to attempt to nullify the wage rate laws.

In California certain cities questioned the California wage rate law on the ground that they are exempt because they have specific charters. The cities of Pasadena and Lynwood flaunted the law and threw it into the courts. It has now reached the State Supreme Court.

Organized Labor in California secured the enactment of the wage rate law, determined to use every effort to save the law for the protection of the workers. Frederick H. Wood, Deputy Attorney General of the California State Federation of Labor engaged attorneys to prepare a brief in defense of the law and its applicability to cities with special charters.

The brief presented to the court argued that previous decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, relative to the authority of the State Legislature to pass such laws, were controlling.

In its argument against the law the counsel for the city of Lynwood made the following statement:

"It is just the same as if the Legislature required a prevailing rate for materials such as lumber, cement, etc., and penalized the purchaser at less than the declared price."

The Lynwood brief, the counsel for the California State Federation of Labor declares, "classifies human beings, living souls, citizens of our State, together in the same class with pieces of lumber.

"This is the old slavery argument, used before the Civil War. But we are now living in another century, where humanitarian legislation has progressed until it is the established policy of States to pass laws should for the protection of even dumb animals and have declared that even such animals are entitled to greater consideration and protection than a mere piece of lumber."

The Supreme Court of California will of course confirm the right of the California Legislature to declare that employers, whether private contractors or municipal authorities, have not the legal power to pay citizens employed on public works less than the prevailing wage rate in the locality where the work is done.

To decide otherwise would be to give a free hand to reactionary employers, both private and public, to pay wages far lower than required to maintain American living standards.

LABOR CONFERENCE CALLED BY GREEN

National and International Union Presidents Asked to Meet with A. F. of L. Executive Council Feb. 9 to Consider Injunction Legislation and Unemployment.

Washington, Jan. 16.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, has invited the presidents of the affiliated national and international unions to meet with the A. F. of L. Executive Council in Washington on February 9 to consider Federal injunction legislation and other Federal labor measures, as well as the unemployment situation.

This conference is being called," President Green's invitation said, "for the purpose of giving consideration and support to injunction relief legislation and other legislative measures being considered by the Congress of the United States in which Labor is vitally and directly interested.

Unemployment Situation Serious

"Furthermore, the unemployment situation has become so serious and so acute as to require and command consideration and attention by the representatives of all organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

"The time is opportune and most timely for Organized Labor to make a definite pronouncement upon this subject in a dramatic way so that it possess the public conscience to be successfully aroused to the seriousness of the unemployment situation and practical remedies recommended by the American Federation of Labor may be accepted and applied.

Organized Labor's Large Influence

"The representatives of national and international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor are clothed with authority to speak for millions of working men and women associated with and affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

"We can hearten and strengthen the courage and morale of the working people of the country, if, at a conference, to which you are cordially invited, we translate the hopes and aspirations of working men and women into words and action which will carry tremendous weight with the members of Congress, the executive officers of the government, and the owners and management of industry.

"I respectfully request that you, or such representatives as you may designate, clothed with authority to speak for your international unions, be in conference at this conference as herein requested.

"I am sending you this invitation by authority and by direction of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor."

RAIL UNIONS ASK 6-HOUR DAY AND JOB ASSURANCE

Chicago, Jan. 16.—Representatives of the 21 railroad labor unions presented a four-point program stressing unemployment relief to the labor meeting of the railroad executives to consider the 15 per cent demand for a 10 per cent wage cut. The program included:

Assurance of employment for the average force for one year and a six-hour part-time employment for the stand-by forces necessary for peak traffic periods.

The six-hour day.

Federal compensation laws to indemnify against occupation accidents and diseases and to provide replacement costs.

Regulation of competing forms of transportation.

COMPULSORY DONATIONS TO CHARITY GROUPS

New York, Jan. 16.—The policy that employers should force their employees to contribute to charity funds is finding favor among employer periodicals.

In the American Machinist, an employer periodical devoted to the widest possible exploitation of labor-displacing machinery, Mr. H. L. Lackman says:

"The employer, having first satisfied himself that the funds are properly handled, should proceed to sell the scheme to his employes. If adequate contributions are not forthcoming, a percentage of the contributions should be fixed as a maximum and insisted upon."

This means that employers, not content with the billions of profits they secure every year out of the labor of their employes, propose to compel those employes to spend a portion of their wages in the support of certain institutions approved by the employers.

Such a policy does violence to American institutions. It is not a credit to employers. It is opposed by Labor. All workers should be free to spend their income as they see fit without any compelling force from employers.

Hoover Nominates Wilkerson, Notorious Injunction Judge, for U. S. Court of Appeals

Washington, Jan. 16. — President Hoover appointed Judge James H. Wilkerson of the Federal District Court in Chicago as a Judge of the Seventh U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

In the railroad shopmen's strike of 1922, Judge Wilkerson issued one of the most drastic injunctions against the rail unions that ever came from a Federal judge. It was obtained from Wilkerson by Harry Daugherty, then Attorney General of the United States, who a few months before had recommended Wilkerson for the judgeship.

The injunction deprived the shopmen of their elementary rights as American citizens and made the influence of the Government on the side of the railroad managers.

On September 18, 1922, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor issued a statement condemning the injunction and urged mass meetings to portest against it and to lay the basis for a proposed impeachment of the Attorney General.

The Council's statement said in part:

"The injunction issued against the shopmen by Judge Wilkerson at the application of Attorney General Daugherty is a most flagrant violation of the Constitution of the United States, and of the laws enacted by our Congress.

"No one apparently is free from its sweeping provisions. It prohibits the freedom of speech, the freedom of press, and the right of the people peaceably to assemble to discuss their grievances.

"Even a minister of the gospel in Indiana was proceeded against for violating the injunction because he prayed for the success of the shopmen. The editor of a labor paper in Memphis was placed under arrest for printing an editorial criticising the injunction."

In urging mass meetings against the Daugherty-Wilkerson attack on the fundamental principles of the American Bill of Rights, the Council said it was "imperative for the people of our beloved country to raise their voices in earnest and emphatic protest against government by injunction, especially when the injunction overrides the laws and Constitution of our Republic."

The fight against the confirmation of Wilkerson's nomination will be conducted before the Senate Judiciary Committee, whose chairman is Senator George Norris of Nebraska.

By a remarkable coincidence, the Senate Judiciary Committee is considering anti-injunction legislation by which it is believed the judicial monstrosities like the one which Wilkerson issued in 1922 will be prohibited by Federal law.

LABOR IN GERMANY CONDEMNS WAGE CUTS

Reduced Buying Power Menaces Existence of Workers and Hinders Economic Recovery.

Berlin, Germany, Jan. 16.—The Executive Committee of the General Federation of German Trade Unions denounced emphatically the decree of Chancellor Bruening issued on January 8 as one of the measures to bring about economic recovery.

"The Government," the Committee said, "has failed to produce a plan for providing employment, and also to give any notification of its intention to increase the legal 48-hour week with compulsory engagement of unemployed persons.

"The Government still cherishes the delusion that it can bring about an improvement in the internal market by a reduction of wages and prices and by increasing the competitive capacity of Germany in foreign markets.

"The rash policy of reducing wages pursued for more than a year has brought German economy to the verge deeper into distress. The same applies to the continual agitation for a further reduction in prices. The time is now ripe to retrace our steps.

"It has proved completely futile to attempt to increase the capacity of German goods against foreign competitors by further reductions in wages. Every reduction of wages, as experience has shown, has been immediately seized upon by foreign countries as wage dumping and answered by measures of retaliation. Wage reductions destroy the purchasing power which is for the German economic system the paramount factor, and they also result in the perpetuation of budgetary deficits.

"The income of the working people has been everywhere diminished in such measure as not merely the existence of the worker but also the quality of the work is being seriously menaced. The future of the German economic system is not secured by the existence of a cheap and docile labor force, but by as much as output of good quality is no longer possible owing to starvation wages.

"The Executive Committee therefore emphatically protests against the unjustified intention of the Government to reduce still further the purchasing power of the masses."

GREEN REQUESTS FLOOD CONTROL PEONAGE PROBE

Washington, Jan. 16.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, asked the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives to make an investigation of the charges that there is near peonage and slavery in Mississippi flood control work.

The original charges, made by responsible representatives of the American Federation of Labor, after surveys of labor conditions made on the spot, were recently sent by Green to the Hon. Patrick Henry Drewry, Member of Congress, and to Maj. Gen. Lytle Brown, Chief of Army Engineers, with a request that an inquiry that private contractors were holding their workers in near peonage.

"We are not satisfied with that investigation," Green said. "No labor representative was called by the Department to support the charges with additional facts."

Green read a resolution adopted by the Mississippi State Federation of Labor asserting that Maj. Gen. Brown had shown prejudice in his investigation.

HOUSE COMMITTEE BLOCKS GOVERNMENT WAGE CUTS

Washington, Jan. 16.—The refusal of the House Appropriations Committee to confer on Expenditures in the Executive Departments to make a favorable report on a number of bills providing the pay of Government employes was announced today by Chairman Byrns of certain wage slashing Members of Congress.

When the various appropriation bills come before the House it will be possible for Wage Slashing Congressmen to offer pay cut amendments, known as "riders," which would bring the matter directly before the Membership.

Officials of the American Federation of Labor are watching the parliamentary situation carefully and will use every influence of Organized Labor to maintain the modest salaries and wages now paid to Government workers.

It is stated that about 175 Senators and Representatives have written letters expressing their opposition to all wage and salary reductions.

UNION LABEL PROTECTION

Washington, Jan. 16.—The Senate passed the union label bill to authorize associations of employes in the District of Columbia to adopt a design, define its use, prescribe penalties for the unauthorized use of the device.

American Federation of Labor officials informed the Senate District of Columbia Committee that the value of union labels on nonunion products is a common practice in Washington.

The bill provides penalties ranging from $100 to $500 or imprisonment from three months to one year. It is expected the House of Representatives will pass it in the near future.

Labor-Displacing Machinery and Unemployment

Since the depression started in 1929 manufacturers have spent millions of dollars to equip their plants with improved labor-displacing machinery. That has meant large increases in the number of the unemployed and short time with reduced earnings for many others. This process is still going on.

The A. H. Nilson Machine Company, of Bridgeport, Conn., are specialists in labor-displacing wire and metal ribbon forming machinery. In the Iron Age the company carries an advertisement which contains the following extract:

"The Nilson Tilting Wire Reel is a labor as well as a time saver the returns from its purchase price in the service within a very short time. It enables one man to do what was formerly hard work for two."

In the same issue of the Iron Age, the C. O. Bartlett & Snow Company of Cleveland, Ohio, specialists in the construction of foundry equipment, have an advertisement stressing the advantages of their product. Illustrating the text is a workman giant which the company equipped, the following result, the advertisement says, was obtained with their machinery designed to increase the output of workers:

"Labor costs for sand handling are only a fraction of what they were under old-fashioned methods. Helpers are relieved of heavy work in air-conditioned sand to the molders enable them to average four molds per hour more than by former methods."

A special writer in the Iron Age emphasizes the great strides that those who own and control our manufacturing plants have made during the depression "by introducing many new and efficient manufacturing equipment," a phrase used by employer sophists in place of the truth-telling term "labor displacing machinery."

A considerable number of the 8,000,000 unemployed workers in the United States today are without jobs because of this constantly increasing installation of labor-displacing machinery during the depression.

Superficial observers, unversed in the facts, will at once ask, Does Labor propose to stop the introduction of labor-displacing machinery?

Labor proposes nothing of the sort. Labor demands that machinery shall be owned and controlled by the people as a whole—and do the productive work, and the people generally, instead of for the exclusive benefit of those who own the industrial establishments.

Labor proposes that the hours of labor shall be reduced right now to the 7-hour day and the 5-day week. This would put all the 8,000,000 unemployed to work.

For the future, Labor proposes that the hours shall be reduced in accordance with the increased productivity of labor working with improved machinery to whatever extent may be necessary to keep all our employable persons at work.

When this is done, labor-displacing machinery will become in truth labor-saving machinery with the workers realizing the savings in shorter hours, instead of being penalized with unemployment and part-time work as at present while employers take all the "savings" in increased profits.

Equitable Hours of Labor

For many years Organized Labor has hoped that employers generally would admit the moral justification of the principle of shorter hours of labor for those who produce our wealth, and its present economic necessity in view of the continued increase in the productivity of labor's output under the machine and millions of unemployed standing as a clearly visible demonstration of the result of long work hours.

Declarations of the American Wool and Cotton Reporter in favor of a longer work week for textile mill workers in Massachusetts does not enlarge Labor's hopes that the hours will be speedily shortened.

Some years ago Massachusetts through the influence of Organized Labor, enacted a 48-hour week law for women workers. It was expected that other States, especially New England, would follow the Massachusetts example. They did not. Massachusetts mill owners claim the shorter hours in that State place them in a competitive disadvantage with the mill owners in the long-hour States.

Recently the New Bedford Times declared that textile manufacturing in Massachusetts was being injured and additional shorter hours because of the hours handicap, and urged a reduction in the tax rate as a practical method to help the mill owners.

The American Wool and Cotton Reporter takes issue with the Times and declares that the Massachusetts textile manufacturers could easily pay their help longer hours if they would gladly do so **provided they were given the right to return to the good old times when the mill owner profits were made while the hours a day.**

"We could stand these taxes, they would not be our worst competitor," the Reporter says, "if we could get back the equitable hours of labor. Down in Lewiston, Maine, for instance, operating 54 hours a week with the right to run overtime if business warrants, the mills are making millions in putting in new equipment. And the help have been busily employed, the mills have run well."

This reactionary position of the American Wool and Cotton Reporter is a sample of what Labor has to fight throughout the country.

For the protection of her workers Massachusetts enacted the 48-hour week. Other States have longer legal work weeks, some of them sanctioning 56 hours.

Instead of endeavoring to have these backward States advance to the Massachusetts standard, the American Wool and Cotton Reporter uses its influence to lengthen the Massachusetts work week to the disadvantage of the standards of other States.

Urging a longer work week for textile employees would be unwarranted in normal times.

It is reprehensible now with 8,000,000 jobless workers living on some form of charity.

Of course the motive of the mill owners in advocating the longer work week is the belief that they would make more profit from the hours of wealth producing activity of their employes than in 48 hours.

But we have reached a period where the social conscience is revolting against making profit the sole or even the major purpose in industry. Those who do the useful work must be considered.

The time for lengthening the hours of labor is definitely passed.

The time for shortening them has definitely come.

Employers everywhere should take note of this change.

Automobile Living Standards for Labor

Dr. Lewis Haney, director of the New York University of Business Research, specializes on articles for magazines and newspapers consecrated to the interests of those who own and manage industry for maximum profits for the owners and against Labor. Lately he has discussed the living standards of the workers.

Now a recent article he announces his discovery that the "wages of some labor groups" are too high. He says he does not argue that "living standards should be sharply lowered," but, he adds, "it hardly seems reasonable that every American family and laborer must own an automobile."

Isn't that a brilliant suggestion?

In the days of high-priced production, an automobile is just as necessary a part of the equipment of the farmer in his business of producing and marketing farm products as any other piece of farm machinery. An automobile is also necessary so that he and his family may secure some of the education and pleasure that come from short and long auto trips. Every farmer should have an automobile, and the wages received by him should be such as will make he high enough so that neither its purchase price nor upkeep will financially embarrass him.

And now the workers in industry. Under machine production the American workers produce a greater quantity of commodity wealth for the owners of industry in proportion to their labor than any workers in the world.

From 1919 to 1929 the workers in our manufacturing industries increased their output 54 per cent, but the employers raised the workers' wages only 26 per cent.

From 1929 to 1929 by far the larger portion of the prodigious increases in the workers' output was taken by those who own and operate industry.

A Ford or a Chevrolet costs between $500 and $600. And yet an economist interpreter of the employer policy of our industrial leaders implies that wages should be deflated so that the workers will not be able to buy and maintain modern living standards.

Dr. Haney seems to be tinctured with the slave owner's conception of what Labor should be paid for producing wealth. The slave owner fed, clothed and housed the slave worker and garnered as his exclusive net profit the difference between the cost of the slave's living and the price received for the wealth the slave produced. In short, the slave owner's profits were regulated by the living standards of his slave workers.

So with Dr. Haney. Automobiles, he reasons, are not absolutely necessary to keep the modern worker in good working condition, therefore adjust his wages downward so that he will not be able to buy an automobile.

Labor disagrees with Dr. Haney.

Labor believes that the wages of every worker in the United States should at least provide a figure that will enable him to buy and keep up, without sacrificing any comfort, an automobile for the pleasure of himself and his family, or for his own pleasure if he has no family.